

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

June 24, 2003

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FROM: **MARK H. UFFER**, Director
 Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

SUBJECT: **TRANSFER AGREEMENTS WITH LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the following transfer agreements with Loma Linda University Medical Center, which will allow for the continuity of care and timely transfer of patients and records between facilities, effective June 24, 2003:

Agreement

Regional Cooperation Agreement – Cardiac Services
Regional Cooperation Agreement – Trauma Services

Agreement No.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This agenda item recommends approval of two new transfer agreements between the Medical Center and Loma Linda University Medical Center. These agreements will facilitate the continuity of care and timely transfer of trauma and cardiac surgical patients and records between facilities. In addition to these two new agreements, the Medical Center currently has existing transfer agreements for other services with Loma Linda. All patient transfers shall be made in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations, standards of regulatory agencies, and reasonable policies and procedures of the facilities.

As part of the Medical Center's mission and vision to continually improve the quality of care provided to the community it serves, the Medical Center is in the process of expanding its Cardiac Department. In 2002, the Medical Center began developing an on-site cardiac rehabilitation program to assist in improving health and stamina in patients who have had an acute myocardial infarction that may or may not have required open-heart surgery or coronary angioplasty. This program was developed as a means of providing continuity of care to Medical Center patients by allowing patients to be treated at the Medical Center instead of being transferred to other area hospitals.

In addition to this program, a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory is being developed to provide minor cardiac procedures including coronary angioplasty and stent deployments to Medical Center patients. The addition of these procedures will allow the Medical Center to provide continuity of care to its patients by alleviating the need to transfer the patient to a higher level of care facility for these procedures, as well as saving money on transportation costs.

Per California Health and Safety Code, Section 1255, hospitals providing cardiac catheterization laboratory services who are not equipped to perform cardiovascular procedures requiring extracorporeal coronary artery bypass, must maintain a written agreement for the transfer of patients to a general acute care hospital that is licensed for cardiac surgery. Loma Linda University Medical Center is licensed to perform cardiac surgery.

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Additionally the Medical Center operates a Level II Trauma Center, providing comprehensive trauma care to the patients it serves. Per State and Federal regulations, hospitals with a Level II Trauma Center must work together with a Level I Trauma Center to optimize resources expended to care for all injured patients in their area. This implies a cooperative environment between institutions which allow patients to flow between hospitals depending upon resources and clinical expertise. Loma Linda University Medical Center operates as a Level I Trauma Center.

State and Federal mandates require that when a specialized healthcare facility with the ability to provide a patient with a higher level of care is contacted by an admitting hospital that is unable to provide optimal care for a patient, the specialized healthcare facility must accept the transfer of the critically ill patient. Loma Linda University Medical Center is a Level I acute care facility, which is able to accommodate trauma and cardiac patients who may need to be transferred from the Medical Center.

An established transfer agreement between the two facilities is the most efficient and practical way to facilitate transfer of these patients. These transfer agreements with Loma Linda University Medical Center outline the responsibilities of each facility in regards to the transfer of patients. These responsibilities include physician communications, transfer of medical records, transportation requirements, etc.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles J. Larkin, Deputy County Counsel) on May 15, 2003, and HSS Administration (Carol Hughes, Administrative Analyst) on June 16, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Pursuant to these Agreements, all charges incurred with respect to any services performed by either facility for patients received from the other facility, shall be billed and collected by the facility providing such services, directly from the patient, third party coverage, Medicare or Medicaid, or other sources normally billed by that facility. Actual revenues collected will depend upon the patients' financial ability to pay.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends approval since these agreements yield no financial impact upon the County.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: Dev GnanaDev, MD, Medical Director, Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, 580-6150